



April 28, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.8351 – The Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act

Dear Chairman Abney:

On behalf of our mayoral academy charter public schools, we write to express our support for H.8351, the Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act.

We are grateful for the rigorous, thoughtful, and inclusive process that has led to this proposal. The development of a modernized education funding framework of this scale reflects deep engagement with stakeholders across the state and a shared commitment to strengthening public education for all Rhode Island students.

As public schools serving diverse communities, we are united in our mission to ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education. We appreciate that this proposal is grounded in principles of sufficiency, transparency, and student-centered equity, and that it seeks to align resources more closely with student need. The emphasis on predictable funding, shared fiscal responsibility, and accountability for outcomes represents an important step forward for the state.

We are particularly encouraged by the bill's recognition that all public school students, regardless of the type of public school they attend, deserve equitable access to resources. The proposed framework reflects a commitment to fairness across local education agencies and acknowledges the importance of aligning funding systems with the realities of educating students today.

We also appreciate the bill's focus on long-term stability and transparency, which are critical to effective planning and responsible stewardship of public funds. These elements will help build

confidence in the state's education system and support stronger outcomes for students statewide.

We are proud to stand alongside districts and other public school leaders in supporting efforts to make Rhode Island's education funding system more equitable, student-centered, and sustainable. We look forward to continued collaboration as this proposal moves forward.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,



Sarah Anderson
CEO, Blackstone Valley Prep



Tom McDermott
Executive Director
Rhode Island Achievement First



Owen Stearns
CEO, Excel Academy

cc: House Finance Committee members

Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi